

Bill Ardill

From: Bill Ardill [bill.ardill@sim.org]
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To: Ardill-News
Subject: [ardill-news] reunions, Marie and a new name
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Since arriving at Camp of the woods each day has been a series of reunions with friends from all over the U.S. that we know from either Dorothy's family, her previous work experiences at Camp as staff or as Tapawingo staff, my background in Brookdale church in New Jersey or people who have heard us speak here in the past. At supper one evening a family came to our table and introduced themselves to Dorothy's parents. The woman was the daughter of the pastor who first introduced Dorothy's father to Camp of the Woods over 40 years ago. On Sunday after morning service a couple came up and asked if I remembered who they were. Fortunately I had had my coffee and was able to gather my thoughts and remember it was Dean and Lila Spencer who I had not seen in over 25 years. Dean's family went to Brookdale church in New Jersey when our family was going there in the 80's and Lila's parents were SIM missionaries with our family in Nigeria so I knew her growing up in Nigeria. This morning I had a great time visiting with Don Hammond, the HAM radio operator who helped Dorothy and me through the tough days of the Liberian civil war when we were separated and I was working at ELWA Hospital and the ELWA refugee camp in 1990. At the entrance gate at Camp yesterday I met a 94 year old gentleman who I knew from New Jersey who is still helping as a volunteer at Camp. I met another gentleman last night who wanted to know how I was doing since I was shot and assured me he had been praying for me every day since then. Wow! And the stories go on every day as we are surprised at the people who remember us, pray for us and are still interested in how we are doing. So, other than the great speakers, facilities and staff at Camp of the Woods, now you know that we are most encouraged and revitalized by the many friends we meet who are interested in what the Lord is doing in Nigeria and in our family and who we know are praying for us.

On Wednesday evening we will give a short presentation to a small church near Camp that has been supporting us and then on Thursday afternoon we give another presentation at Camp about our work in Nigeria. The weather has been quite cool and windy so we hope if the weather stays cold, it will bring in a large crowd to hear us! Otherwise they are all on the beach and water skiing!

The kids are having a great time not only with the activities offered at Camp but also just being together with their cousins and new teenage friends here. Yesterday we all went on a hike to Panther Mountain and enjoyed being in the beautiful woods and then seeing the amazing panorama view at the top of the gorgeous Adirondack mountain wilderness. Of course Heather, Anna and David almost ran to the top while Dorothy and I were thinking it seemed to be a bit harder climb than a few years ago when we were here. How do they change the trail to make it harder like that?! Tomorrow we will go white water rafting and in between times they are being pulled behind Dorothy's brother's motorboat on an inner tube and playing soccer and games in the new amazing indoor gym at Camp.

Marie gets off her duties at Tapawingo Camp for girls on Saturday at 1 pm until Sunday afternoon so we enjoyed seeing her this weekend. She is doing well but is finding it a bit tougher than she expected. She has had a few young girls in her cabin who are quite needy and it has been emotionally demanding for her. She seems to be gaining confidence and experience and overall is doing well. The camper girls with her seem to love her and we are glad she is doing well. It was also nice to see her boyfriend Dwight for a day. He drove up from Lancaster, Pennsylvania Saturday and went back on Sunday afternoon. He went tubing behind the motorboat for the first time and had a lot of fun in a short time (and I suppose enjoyed seeing not only me but Marie!)

We heard some interesting news from Nigeria this week as follows "ECWA executive and Bingham University Council today it was agreed that ECWA Evangel Hospital should be taken over by Bingham University to become Bingham University Teaching Hospital." We are not sure about the implications of this and will keep you informed as we hear how this plays out. To give a bit more background, the main church we work with in Nigeria is called ECWA. They own and run the Evangel Hospital and have recently started a Christian university called Bingham University. The main Bingham campus is in Abuja about 3 hours from Jos and the original plan was to build a new teaching hospital on the main campus. Until that hospital could be built we understood Bingham would use Evangel as a temporary site for the teaching hospital. With the above news, it appears that plan has been abandoned and Evangel will now become the main teaching hospital and be

renamed. Stay tuned...

On Saturday morning we head out early for Grand Rapids and will be at Berean Baptist church. We will there until Tuesday when we head for Chicago. Thanks for your prayers as we finish up at Camp of the Woods and then begin our long road journey (California or Bust!) Till next week...

In Christ,
Bill Ardill

Please reply to <bill.ardill@sim.org>

* SIM by Prayer *
